

CANVASSING KANSAS

AN UPDATE ON ELECTION NEWS IN KANSAS

FEBRUARY 2016

Passing of Jim Minihan



The Kansas Secretary of State's Office regrets to announce the passing of Jim Minihan. Jim has been an Information Technology Consultant for the State of Kansas, serving in a variety of capacities for over 20 years. He most recently served as the Secretary of State's Chief Information Officer and was instrumental in the modernization of the state's election software. During his tenure at the Secretary of State's Office, Jim received numerous accolades including the esteemed Medallion Award from the National Association of Secretaries of State.

"Jim was a close personal friend and a great friend of the State of Kansas. He saved taxpayers great sums of money and helped Kansas government run more efficiently. He will be greatly missed." – Secretary of State Kris Kobach

The article below was originally published in the September 2013 issue of *Canvassing Kansas*.

National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion Award Nomination for Jim Minihan

August 7, 2013

In support of my nomination of Jim Minihan for the National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion award, the following summary highlights only a few of the many contributions made by Mr. Minihan to promoting the goals of the National Association of Secretaries of State throughout his career by improving the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the Kansas Secretary of State's office as well as Kansas state government. It would be impossible to estimate the amount of time and money he has saved the state of Kansas in his many years of working with the Secretary of State and other government agencies.

For the last twenty years, Jim has been instrumental in ongoing analysis and reengineering of our agency operations, providing numerous informal and formal recommendations for process enhancements and approaches to the application of technology that have dramatically improved our efficiency, enabling us to eliminate redundancies and achieve significant cost savings, all while improving customer service and satisfaction. In that time, he has won the trust and admiration of three Secretaries of State who came to depend on his counsel and insight in driving the continuous improvement of our business.

Jim's dedication to the work of the Secretary of State and his innovative spirit have been core to our most significant accomplishments. Beginning with his development of a master plan for the modernization of the office of the Secretary of State in 1994, he has provided a steady source of inspiration and encouragement to our staff and management team in "climbing the mountain" to see and steadily move toward a long term vision of success.

He provided strategic guidance, project management and support for the procurement, development and implementation of the Kansas statewide voter registration database (ELVIS), as well as the voting equipment procurement contract that brought Kansas into compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002, mission critical projects with a combined budget of \$20 million dollars. This work is indicative of help he has provided on many occasions, skillfully guiding our office through the state procurement process and vendor negotiations, while providing valuable insight that allowed us to bring projects in on time and budget. Based on a combination of his deep technical and subject matter expertise in this area, his work and recommendations on the selection and implementation of document management and imaging systems made the accomplishment of our work faster and less expensive, allowing our agency to "do more with less."

The effectiveness of Jim's work has also been recognized by our most important audience – our customers. His efforts in guiding the design and development in moving the processes associated with Uniform Commercial Code filings online produced a wildly successful system that began with initial adoption rate of 68%, moving to 95% within the first year – making us the first state to achieve 90% adoption, all while dramatically reducing the time and effort required to file for both our customers and the state. Jim's natural talent for pulling together diverse sets of customers, technologists, and subject matter experts, as well as his technical knowledge made him indispensable resource in building the foundation for the Public Key Infrastructure for the state, setting the strategic direction for a service that has grown to support mission-critical implementations from statewide voter registration and electronic notary services, to biosecurity and nuclear power facilities.

From assisting us in safeguarding the public by identifying ways to redact personally identifiable information from UCC filings (for a fraction of the cost of private sector offerings!), to introducing innovations that helped us scan millions of historic corporate filings in an 18-month period, Jim has shown the ability to provide not just timely advice, but to roll up his sleeves and help get the work done. Along with his professional talents and experience, his personal qualities and earnest interest in our success have made him part of the family here and it is with great gratitude and respect for his long-term contribution to the Kansas Secretary of State's office that I nominate him for the National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion Award. - Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach



Jim Minihan receiving the National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion Award from Secretary Kobach on August 7, 2013.

